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The Election is Over, and Now the Work Begins

By Rep. Gary Hebl

Now that the November elections have come and gone, it is time to look forward to the next legislative session. There are many issues that I plan to revisit and bills that I will introduce next year.

In the wake of the news of the John Doe investigation that was published in great detail in the Guardian, I will be re-introducing my Fair Courts package. This package includes much-needed judicial reforms. If passed, it would ensure that Wisconsin Supreme Court justices facing a conflict of interest remove themselves from cases where their impartiality would be called into question. They would have to provide a written statement of the reasoning behind their decision if they decline to remove themselves, and their decision could be reviewed and possibly reversed by the full Supreme Court. Justices would also have to recuse themselves if a party in a case donated more than \$1000 to their election campaign.

We must also make sure that we take care of our veterans. Right now, veterans of our Armed Forces that served in post-1974 conflicts are not eligible to count that service in the Wisconsin Retirement System. I will re-introduce a bill that makes service in our Armed Forces that came after 1974 eligible for the state retirement benefits.

I also plan to reintroduce a bill that will reinstate public financing of State Supreme Court elections. By receiving public funds instead of getting money from special interests, we can be more confident in the impartiality of our court system and restore trust.

We must also reinstate our mining regulations. These regulations were stripped back to benefit one company that is no longer even considering mining operations in the state. We must ensure that we have sufficient protections in place in order to protect our state's valuable natural resources.

These initiatives are just some of the legislation that I plan to bring up next session. We must now come together with our colleagues across the aisle to pass legislation that will positively impact Wisconsin's citizens. I hope that we can move past partisan politics to work towards common goals, and I look forward to continuing to serve the people of the 46th Assembly District.

Rep. Gary Hebl represents the 46th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Sun Prairie and Stoughton, the village of Cottage Grove, and the townships of Cottage Grove, Dunkirk, Pleasant Springs, and Sun Prairie.

Contact Rep. Hebl with any questions or concerns you may have at (608) 266-7678 or via email at Rep.Hebl@legis.wi.gov.

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